

# Truman Calls Stalling Congress 'Soft' on PA

THE AFL—Fight for U. S. Pay Raise



**TIME FOR PAY RAISE ACTION.**—Washington—The sign is held by James H. Rademacher, Jr. (left), president AFL National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 1, Detroit, and Harold A. DeLong, president Detroit Federation of Post Office Clerks. Detroit postal force is losing hundreds of experienced workers to higher-paying defense plants. Letter carriers enter service at \$1.21 per hour with a five cents an hour annual increase to top rate; the same man starts at \$1.45 an hour in auto plant and goes to \$1.55 an hour in 30 days.



**LEAD PAY FIGHT.**—Washington—Presidents of three AFL unions in forefront of fight for 17 per cent boost for government workers urged greater efforts to accomplish objective. L. to r., Leo George, National Federation of Post Office Clerks; AFL Vice-President W. C. Doherty, National Association of Letter Carriers; James A. Campbell, American Federation of Government Employees.



**LETTER CARRIERS STORY.**—Washington—"Your Letter Carrier Appeals to you for a Living Wage and the Restoration of the Postal Service" is the story these AFL National Association of Letter Carriers gave their congressmen during 2-day legislative conference to urge boost. L. to r., A. F. Baker, Austin, Tex., NALC board of laws; Everett Burns, Los Angeles, NALC board of trustees, and Tom Walters, operations director Government Employees Council.

## Office Employees Win Consolidated Aircraft Plant at Fort Worth, Tex.

Fort Worth, Tex.—The AFL Office Employees International Union won exclusive bargaining rights for 1,500 members of the office and clerical staff of the huge Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp. plant here.

In a National Labor Relations Board election June 22, a total of 887 workers voted for the AFL union with only 180 opposed. Total votes cast were 1,066.

Production workers in the big plant

## 126 Congressmen Favor 17 Percent For U.S. Workers

Washington—A tally by AFL government employes unions shows that at least 126 Representatives and 18 Senators favor a 17 per cent pay hike for U.S. federal workers without any restrictions.

The computation was made on the basis of interviews reported by the 1,500 representatives of AFL government employes unions who visited Congress during a 2-day session last here.

The visiting unionists reported interviews with 399 members of the house and 77 Senators.

In addition to those favoring the 17 per cent hike, 139 Representatives and 30 Senators said they would support the recommendations of their committees. That means a majority of both houses favor a salary increase. The committees so far favor a pay increase for postal and classified workers but have talked about 6.9 per cent increases, which AFL officials described as pitifully inadequate.

## Meany Says Korea Intervention Halted Red Expansion Toward U. S.

Buffalo, N. Y.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said that American and United Nations intervention in Korea has not failed.

Speaking to the New York State Federation of Labor he said: "It is almost a year since the Communists launched their drive for the conquest of Asia by invading South Korea. With the token assistance of the United Nations, we undertook to stop that drive. We have not failed. "Suppose we had failed to the defense of South Korea, as Soviet Russia anticipated. What would have happened then? By this time, the Communists would probably have taken over Formosa, the Philippines, and the Malay Peninsula. Our enemies would then have been even more vulnerable in the Pacific than the time of Pearl Harbor.

"And the free nations of Europe, whom we count upon as our allies, resisting Communist pressure, because they could not count upon our support.

To the extent that the Communist intervention toward us from the Pacific has been continued, we have not failed. And to the extent that our allies in Europe are still maintaining a firm front against Soviet Russia, we also have not failed."

Mr. Meany warned that it is no time for complacency and called for aroused American citizens to appreciate the peril threatening their country, not only from Soviet Russia but from an inadequate Defense Production Act which will not halt Russian inflation.

## Housing Shortage Threatens Defense Production Job

Washington.—The National Housing Conference's 20th annual meeting dramatized the need for immediate congressional legislation to provide homes to prevent a breakdown in the nation's defense production.

President Truman asked NHC President David L. Krooth in a letter that the conference help him counter the efforts of selfish interests to block a defense housing program and seeking to undercut the public housing and slum clearance laws passed by previous Congresses.

"Our remaining resources, after providing for defense, are still large, and to the extent that we can do so, we want to keep on providing as many good homes as we can, right across the board," Mr. Truman said.

Spokenmen from Miami, St. Petersburg, Milwaukee, Chicago, Cincinnati, Chicago and other cities told of the vicious fights waged against low-cost defense and public housing by the powerful real estate interests.

The conference program emphasized that defense manpower requires housing to maintain production.

Price Stabilization Administration to provide low cost public housing and a defense housing program.

## HOUSING FIGHT

Washington.—Leaders of the AFL International Association of Machinists urged Congress to take action at the nation's 13 leading aircraft centers stopped up the grassroots drive for low rental housing and stiffer rent controls.

Armed with facts on the critical housing situation throughout the entire nation obtained from Government and congressional sources during a visit here, the I.A.M. aircraft leaders were prepared to lay the full story of housing and rent control before the working families overcrowding the defense centers.

Housing is already heavily overcrowded in all aircraft centers.

## Present Controls May Be Extended Briefly, Then Killed Off

Washington.—Congress cooked up a temporary extension of the present Defense Production Act beyond the June 30 expiration as the deadline approached.

Foes of strong price and rent controls planned then to let the controls die completely or water them down to virtual ineffectiveness.

House and Senate chose to ignore the pyramiding pile of letters and telegrams from AFL unions and special messages from President Truman asking stronger controls by June 30.

Or else, this support for real anti-inflationary curbs has failed for lack of steam and spirit.

Both houses had bills under consideration which would halt all price rollbacks, including those for beef; would permit rent increases up to 20 per cent over 1942 levels, and withdraw or water down President Truman's powers to allocate materials and otherwise deal with ruinous inflation.

Mr. Truman wrote to Vice-President Barkley and House Speaker Sam Rayburn saying he is "considerably distressed" by the weak bills reported to Congress.

"These provisions take the easy way—to relax controls and hope for the best—which is extremely dangerous," Mr. Truman said.

"A relaxed attitude is an invitation to danger."

Price Stabilization Director Michael V. D'Iselle said the ban on beef price rollbacks means a further 10 per cent increase in beef prices.

Despite warnings from Defense Mobilization Administrator Charles Wilson and Economic Stabilization Director Michael V. D'Iselle, the Big Business interests insisted that the Congressmen they elected should vote the Big Business line against controls and that public be damned.

## AFL In 13 States Report DPA Pleas To Congressmen

Washington.—Representatives and senators from at least 13 states have received appeals from American Federation of Labor organizations to pass a stronger price and rent control law by the June 30 expiration of the present Defense Production Act.

AFL President William Green has received copies of letters to these congressmen or notice that such plans have been sent from state federations of labor, central labor unions, building and construction trades unions or local unions.

The states are Illinois, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Minnesota, Missouri, Indiana, New York, Maine, Connecticut, South Dakota and Washington.

Mr. Green urged the state federations and central labor unions to write or wire their representatives and senators urging them to support a stronger Defense Production Act as amended by the AFL.

He added that they should try to advise him of their action.

Latest to receive letters from international Falls, Minn., Trades and Labor Assembly; Danbury, Conn., Central Labor Union; Longview-Kelso, Wash., Central Labor Council; Connecticut Federation of Labor; 150 million Federal of Insurance Agents Local 20817, Chicago.

## BACKS LOAN

New York.—AFL President William Green urged the American Federation of Labor Council for Hatzidart to the AFL "will gladly cooperate in every possible way to make possible the aid of the Israel Aid Act of 1947."

Joseph Brenner, council chairman, urged trades unions to ask their congressmen to support the bill.

## SET STRIKE

Washington.—The AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union called a strike to begin July 2 against Western Union Telegraph Co.

The walkout will affect 35,000 workers who have had a wage increase April 1, 1948. The union is asking 25 cents an hour boost.

## Don't Use Western Union If Strike Comes, Telegraphers Ask All Labor

Washington.—President W. L. Allen of the AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union alerted organizers of labor to use other means of communications if and when Western Union Telegraph Co. employees strike after June 30 against company refusal to grant a pay boost.

Mr. Allen said that Western Union has even refused to meet CTU negotiators under a legal reopening contract clause.

Western Union employees' last wage increase was 8 cents an hour April 1, 1948.

A secret strike date has been set because Western Union employees are "fed up" with 10 years of company "evasions and flagrant violations of contract."

Mr. Allen reported these and other facts about the dispute to presidents of AFL, CIO and independent international and national unions and the state federations of labor. He said in part:

"Our Western Union members have voted 10 to 1 to strike the Western Union Telegraph Company nationwide unless the company agrees to meet and negotiate a general reopening contract with our Western Union National Bargaining Committee prior to midnight June 30. Approximately 35,000 employees are involved.

"The CTU is seeking a general wage increase of 25 cents per hour under a wage reopening contract in the agreement. The company says there is no way and no way of meeting formally with the committee.

"Our attorney advised that the wage reopening provision is applicable and we can legally strike the industry upon expiration of the contract on the present midnight June 30.

"The committee has set a strike date which for obvious reasons will not be made known until a time deemed appropriate by the committee. Meanwhile, a commissioner from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is attempting to mediate the dispute.

"Except for minor wage adjustments of two to four cents per hour in progression rates, the present wages Western Union employees have had a wage increase since 1948. At that time they received a general increase of 10 per cent.

"The average hourly rate of pay is \$12.75 per hour, not including meals. Those who receive the 75 cents per hour minimum rate provided by the company.

"While we have been successful in raising the average wage rate from 88 cents in 1945 to the present \$12.75, Western Union employees are still numbered among the lower paid groups.

"The company's refusal to meet formally with the committee under the wage reopening provision in the agreement is particularly indefensible inasmuch as the company has admitted that the employees are entitled to a substantial wage increase.

"The determination of our Western Union members to strike the industry is not only due to the company's refusal to meet and negotiate a just and equitable general wage increase; it is also due to more than 10 years of unsatisfactory collective bargaining relations with this notoriously anti-union company.

"Collective bargaining with Western Union has been almost continuous and the company has consistently demonstrated its intention to use evasions and flagrant violations of agreement with the result that a state court recurring order for arbitration has been the order of the day at terrace expense to the Union.

"Western Union employees have had enough of that kind of collective bargaining. They are fed up. They are fully prepared and ready to fight for equitable consideration long since accorded wage earners in other industries.

"This information is being given because in the event of a strike Western Union will be in no position to maintain its service and undoubtedly you will want to make arrangements to substitute other means of communication during the strike. Also you may want to inform the officers and members of your organization of this impending strike."

### TV STRIKE SET

New York.—The New York Local AFL Radio and Television Directors notified DuMont television network that a strike can take place at any time because of the company's refusal to sign a new contract.

The action was approved by the international board of directors who refused to sign a contract similar to that already negotiated with Columbia National and American broadcasting companies.

## 2-Day Stoppage Gains New Pact

New York.—A 2-day work stoppage—first, in 26 years, brought a satisfactory new 3-year contract for 60,000 cloak workers represented by the AFL Workers' Union in 2,000 shops.

The new agreement raises cutters' minimum pay from \$55 to \$67 a week, and increases employer contributions to the union health and vacation fund from 31 to 41 percent, an additional \$1,500,000 a year.

Manufacturers and jobbers agreed to an equitable distribution of work among contractors in and out of New York City.

## Pilots Strike UAL, Stalling 2 Years

Chicago.—The AFL Airlines Pilots Association, stalled by the company wage negotiations almost two years, called pilots out to strike today in United Airlines craft. Military flights to Korea and elsewhere were not affected.

Union President David L. Behrke said the pilots have taken the only step that remained available for them under the Railway Labor Act to conclude a satisfactory employment contract.

The pilots demand a reduction in flying hours and mileage per month as part of their share in the increased productivity resulting from faster planes carrying bigger loads.

## NEW DPA BILL BY JUNE 30

Washington.—President Truman's congressional leaders opposed any stop-gap legislation on economic controls, holding that a new Defense Production Act must be passed by June 30.

Mail from constituents plunging for a stronger bill to curb prices and prices by that date is picking up.

Write or wire your congressmen before June 30 for a stronger bill as supported by the American Federation of Labor.

END LONGEST TRANSIT STRIKE—Detroit.—Members of Division 26 AFL Street Car and Bus Operators Union cheer end of 59-day strike—longest ever conducted in a major American city. City officials, who had fired strikers under state's anti-labor Hutchinson Act, reversed itself and reinstated them; then resumed negotiations on union demands for 8.5 cents an hour wage increase.

## Lee Warns Gangsters Their Acts Against Labor Will Convict Them

By DAN SMYTH  
Chicago Correspondent AFL News Service

Chicago.—The Chicago Federation of Labor offered \$10,000 reward for conviction of terrorists who have attempted to intimidate the labor movement, especially among the teamsters, in recent weeks.

With \$20,000 offered by the Chicago Teamsters Joint Council and \$20,000 more by the Milk Drivers' Union, a total of \$40,000 is now outstanding to find and imprison the hoodlums who are trying to muscle into Chicago unions.

In voting the reward offer, the federation delegates unanimously renewed their determination to withstand the attack by gangsters. They expect to repel the invasion, and it won't be the first time.

President William A. Lee, addressing the federation during consideration of the reward offer at June meeting, said:

"I am quite certain if the gangsters continue their acts against the labor group in Chicago, it will be their downfall. This is not an idle boast, and there is nothing hysterical in that I am prophesying. I know whereof I speak."

"I think it is a terrible thing when men will sneak up in the middle of the night and drop a bomb on the head of a representative of labor. It is not the harm that they do to us men. We can take it, but it is what they do to those who are at home, as I think such acts are about as low as any human being could stoop to commit."

Most recent outrage was explosion

of a bomb at the home of Thomas J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the Milk Drivers. Mr. Haggerty is one of the most respected leaders in the AFL movement, a member of the Chicago Board of Education.

Bartley, Mr. Lee, president also of the Bakery Drivers Union, was accosted on the street by hoodlums who announced they wanted to be "cut in," apparently meaning they wanted on the union payroll.

Mr. Lee refused to talk to them and kept walking. He was guarded thereafter by Chicago police.

The men who accosted Mr. Lee, as well as the bombers of the Haggerty home, are unidentified. No warnings were given.

The illegal gambling industry, a source of underworld profit, has been suppressed to a considerable extent recently by the police of Chicago and Cook County. Some people think the muscle men of the gambling trade would like to find a weak spot in the law to move in. Take over and freshen their treasuries.

## New Jersey AFL Hits Rent Boost

Newark, N. J.—The New Jersey State AFL called on workers in New Jersey to "bombard Senators and Representatives verbally and by letter and message, in order to ensure enactment of an amended and strengthened Defense Production Act after June 30."

The AFL assailed a proposal by Republican senators for a 37 percent boost in rent ceilings "as a hatchet in the hands of tenants and consumers."

It added that the Senate banking and currency committee's vote for 20 percent rent increases above base rental levels "is bad enough and will be fought vigorously by every AFL group."

The AFL wants federal rent controls put on "for the duration" basis. It seeks immediate curbs on defense production areas and around military installations, as well as on new houses and conversions. It wants strong enforcement controls, including triple damages for over-charges and illegal evictions.

## Daily Press Criticized for Praise Of Igoe in Fining Grammen

New York.—Daily newspapers were criticized by Henry Kaiser, attorney for AFL American Federation of Musicians, for the editorial praise of Federal Judge Igoe and the late Federal Judge T. Alan Goldborough who held that entire unions are responsible financially for the acts of individual members despite the fact that those actions are contrary to the will of the officers and overwhelming majority of members.

Mr. Kaiser, in a report to the Musicians' national convention, said that this doctrine is "a barbaric throwback to the days when men were punished for the sins of one member."

Under that doctrine enunciated by Judge Goldborough, the United Mine

## Kaiser Charges NLRB Illegally Usurps Union Laws

New York.—Rebut decisions of the National Labor Relations Board in favor of unions, said Kaiser, "are laws" "reflect an extremely dangerous trend" in board thinking.

Henry Kaiser, attorney AFL American Federation of Musicians and other unions, told the Musicians' annual convention that board's decisions involving the Radio Officers Union, International Typographical Union, Teamsters Union and others, reveal a dangerous tendency to enlarge its power in derogation of elemental rights.

Mr. Kaiser said that in the Radio Officers Union cases decided last April, the board refused to accept what the union and employers were agreed their contract means.

"What this approach amounts to is the government telling citizens what the citizens mean, and what they, the citizens, wrote and said without their consent. It gives citizens an opportunity to explain their own understanding," Mr. Kaiser said.

"In effect, the government created a new contract and imposed it upon the citizens, and it is a gross criminal coercion which is, to say the least, hardly consonant with personal liberties."

"Without even realizing the revolution it is inflicting upon the people, the board blatantly announced that it does not consider itself bound by the union's contract, and that those citizens and proceeded to construe those words in the contract as they saw fit."

"The essence of free trade unionism is freedom from government intrusion into its internal affairs."

Mr. Kaiser said labor has more to fear from "the well-intentioned but sorely misguided authors" of these decisions than from the Taft-Hartley law.

He urged that alert trade unionists give more attention to these decisions than they have, and far exceed too little notice.

## Adm. Hague Says All or Nothing

Washington.—U. S. Navy shipsyard in Norfolk and Philadelphia by a local union, said Adm. William D. Hague, represented by AFL Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

"The shipyard operators in Washington Naval Gun Factory voted for the union," Adm. Hague said.

But Rear Admiral Wesley McHugh, industrial relations chief, rejected the result, because it wasn't unanimous. For him, it's got to be a Russian-style vote—all or nothing.

AFL unions are taking the grievance to the admiral's personnel file.

They are supported by a memorandum from B. Hall Hanlon, superintendent Washington Naval Gun Factory, to Secretary of Navy Francis B. Matthews.

"The single rate would overcome certain management problems such as rotating unqualified personnel to insure an equitable distribution of work for which training is authorized, and to simplify fiscal procedures."

In addition, it is believed that the survey shows conclusive evidence that the craftsmen want a single rate and the union also wishes a single rate."

Workers were fined twice as total of \$210,000. Judge Igoe fined the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen \$250,000. Both unions were ordered to pay the fines which were ordered largely by Federal Judge T. Alan Goldborough.

"But what is even more disturbing than the unfortunate decisions of two Federal Judges is the pressure that has been heaped upon them by those selfish, unscrupulous and unprincipled American heritage—the newspaper editorialists," Mr. Kaiser said.

"Instead of crying out against the denunciation of Igoe's crude corruption and the gross misapplication of the principle that guilt is personal and punishment individual, they have been busy praising the very same principle upon the 'learned justices.'"

# Meany Asks People Stop Congress Knifing of DPA

Public Must Give Fear-Paralyzed National Legislature Backbone on Controls, He Tells New York AFL

Buffalo, N. Y.—Congress is knifing beef price ceilings and other strong economic controls because it is paralyzed by fear, and the people are apathetic.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany charged that instead of trying to pass a stronger Defense Production Act by June 30, with price and rent controls that really hold, the line, "most of our Congressmen and Senators are doing their best to wreck the law."

Speaking before the New York State Federation of Labor, Mr. Meany said that Congress is in the grip of a strange paralysis—fearful on the one hand that the public will be angry with strict controls unnecessarily enforced, but fearful also of the consequences if the absence of controls happen if the absence of controls bring collapse of our economy in the terrific inflationary period dead ahead.

"The public can help inject some courage into Congress by demanding stronger control," Mr. Meany said. "That is the only certain way to dislodge the first fear. If Congress doesn't know which way to turn, the people must show it the way."

He said that inflation has added \$21 billion to consumers' living costs in the past 18 months.

"Inflation can wreck our national economy and render our efforts futile to defend itself," he said. "Rational inflation could give Russia an easy victory without firing a shot."

"The Defense Production Act, which provides the only emergency controls the nation has to combat inflation, is due to expire."

"Is Congress trying to strengthen the numerous weaknesses in that law? Is Congress trying to build stronger protection for the American people and the American economy?"

"On the contrary. Most of our Congressmen and Senators are doing their best to wreck the law. They are under pressure from Big Business to kill all controls entirely."

"As the deadline approaches, we find our lawmakers knifing at beef price controls, knifing at continuation of rent controls, cooking up legislation to extend the present law temporarily and then let it lapse entirely, when public attention is otherwise engaged."

Mr. Meany said the public is not paying enough attention to these shenanigans. The mail that members of Congress have received from their constituents on the subject has been described in the daily press as a mere trickle, he noted.

"The entire membership of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate will be in session next year," he said. "They would not dare to desert the public interest if they had the voters' alert to what is going on in Congress."

Mr. Meany said that this is not labor's fight alone.

"Our cause is the cause of all the American people," he said.

"The responsibility for our disorganized national situation rests upon each and every one of us. People get only what they are willing to work for and fight for. I believe that the present lethargy and apathy is but a passing phase."

"I have an unshakable confidence that the American people have not gone flabby and decadent. I know for certain that the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor have not lost their fighting spirit."

"It is up to us in the free-labor movement to stand that spirit. If there is a vacuum in national leadership, let us show that we abhor it."

"I have the organization to do an effective job. The State Federation of

Labor in New York and the State Federations in the other 47 states can help to mobilize public opinion to a higher degree of militancy.

"So can our central bodies in more than 800 cities of the nation. This must be a grassroots upsurge, a growing chorus of demands from all over the nation for action. When America wakes up, believe me, Washington will get busy."

## Both Houses Offer Defense Act Far Short of Needs

Washington.—Both houses of Congress have reported proposed Defense Production Acts that will continue the tight wage freeze, ban any price rollbacks—including those on beef, and permit a 20 percent rent rise above 1942 levels.

Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston said the Senate bill means at least a 6 percent rise in the cost of living. He and Price Stabilization Director Michael V. Disalle pointed weaknesses in both measures.

Only a grassroots upsurge of letters, wires and personal appeals to Congressmen will halt this knifing of the Defense Production Act needed to protect working men and all consumers.

"Unless the public deluges Congress with protest, it seems unlikely that the curbs or rollbacks in oil, sugar or relaxed in either House or Senate," the conservative New York Times wrote.

## State Feds, CLUs Join DPA Battle; One Quotes Bible to Congress

Washington.—One Federal Labor Union quoted the Bible to Congressmen as admonition to enact a strong Defense Production Act.

Scores of State Federations, Central Labor Unions and locals poured letters and telegrams in on Congressmen to strengthen price and rent controls. Many sent copies to President Green who touched off the AFL campaign with a letter to affiliates.

Charles J. Short, financial secretary of the United Workers Federal Labor Union 2029, Philadelphia, said in his letter to Sens. Edward Martin and James Duff of Pennsylvania:

"Good reading from the Bible seems to be right in line today as always, see Proverbs, Chap. 22, Verse 16: 'He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches and he that giveth to the rich shall surely come to want.'"

Following is a partial list of AFL affiliates which have notified President Green of their action:

State Federations—Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky.

Central Labor Unions—Tulsa, Okla.; Reading, Pa.; Passaic County, N. J.; Minneapolis; St. Louis; Enid, Okla.; Vigo County (Terre Haute), Ind.

Building Trades Councils—Grand Rapids, Mich.; August, Minn.; Detroit, Mich.; Rapid City, S. D.

Others—Connecticut Ladies Garment Workers Union; Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 763, Norwalk, Conn.; Meriden, Conn. Federation of Post Office Clerks Local 3151; Danbury, Conn., International



KEENAN IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION.—Washington.—Joseph Keenan (right), secretary-treasurer AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, takes oath as assistant administrator of Defense Production Administration from Acting Administrator Edwin T. Gibson. Mr. Keenan is key labor man in important agency allocating materials on which employment of thousands of organized workers depend. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



TOP LABOR MAN IN DEFENSE MOBILIZATION.—Washington.—AFL Vice President George M. Harrison (right) is sworn as special assistant to Defense Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson (center) by Henry F. Harley (left), administrative aide to Mr. Wilson. Mr. Harrison is United Labor Policy Committee's top representative in nation's defense mobilization. He is president Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

## LIVING COSTS UP \$21 BILLION

New York.—Inflation has added \$21 billion to consumers' living costs since January 1950.

Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston made that estimate in a speech before the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

He said the worst inflation pressure is yet to come under the nation's \$40 billion a year rearmament and defense program. He said tight economic controls are needed at least until 1953.

## Green Praises Rank and File Work For 17 Percent Government Raise

Washington.—AFL President William Green praised the good work performed by 1,500 legislative representatives of 24 AFL government employee unions during two days of visits with congressmen and senators in the interests of a 17 percent pay raise for all government workers.

Mr. Green addressed the final meeting of the AFL unionists who came here from every state in the union to tell their congressmen that the Civil Service Commission's recommendation for a 6.5 percent pay raise is insufficient.

Members of Congress, presidents of the various unions and others spoke to the visiting delegations.

Tom Walters, operations director Government Employees Council, told the AFL National Legislative Council that the conference was a great success. He said the union members found many members of Congress willing and ready to vote for the 17 percent pay increase if they get a chance.

Mr. Walters said the obstacles seem to be the House and Senate committees which have not yet reported bills and the spokesmen of the administration who have not gotten behind a pay raise for government workers. He said the unionists are lagging far behind the cost of living.

Hold on to your U. S. Savings bonds—buy more.

## LETTER CARRIERS FROM 42 STATES

Washington.—A total of 728 representatives of the AFL National Association of Letter Carriers from 42 states called on members of Congress to raise their pay and restore postal service.

The representation was the largest of all the 24 AFL unions making up the Government Employees Council at the special national legislative conference held here.

The Letter Carriers want a 17 percent pay raise and an end to atrocious working conditions created by the union-busting and buggy one-day mail deliveries ordered by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson.

## Higher Pay Draws Navy Engineers, Production Lags

Washington.—The navy is buried under a tremendous backlog of defense work that cannot be completed unless engineers receive "fair pay for responsible work," admirals told a congressional committee hearing testimony on pay raise legislation for federal workers.

On ship alteration work alone, the backlog in April was 1,465,000 man-days of engineering, an increase of 215 percent of uncompleted work over a year earlier.

This testimony confirmed a finding by the AFL International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Union-AFL, which has earlier surveyed its members working in naval shipyards throughout the country.

Employment turnover is excessively high and navy engineers are taking jobs with private industry paying an average of \$1,000 a year more, the union's membership reported to President Stanley W. Oliver.

Private industry is pirating away skilled navy engineers with much higher pay offers and navy job recruiting teams are experiencing "serious difficulty" in recruiting engineers, Rear Admiral Grover C. Klein, assistant chief of the bureau of ships for field activities, told the Post Office and Civil Service Senate sub-committee while testifying a 17 percent pay increase bill.

A strong plea for pay raises that would attract "competent personnel" was voiced by Rear Admiral Calhoun F. Schofield, chief of the bureau of naval engineering, the sub-committee that the navy's inability to obtain competent draftsmen and design engineers was forcing the navy into the expensive procedure of contracting with private firms for a considerable portion of its design work.

## Nation Lacks Leadership

Buffalo, N. Y.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the New York State Federation of Labor that "our country today is suffering from a vacuum of inspirational leadership."

"The Democratic Party has a majority in both houses of Congress, but again and again it has shown that the President cannot control even the members of his own party in Congress," he said.

"The real leadership in Congress is the combination of the Byrd Democrats and those reactionary Republicans who gladly do the bidding of Big Business under the guidance of Senator Taft."

"To picture Taft as a leader of the American people would overtax my imagination. He is a man utterly lacking in statesmanship and human sympathy. He is a spokesman for Big Business, first, last and all the time."

"When effective leadership is lacking, in a crisis like the present, it is up to the American people themselves to take over. In a democracy like ours, it is sometimes imperative that the people show the way to their leaders. That is time is now. It can be done."

SIGNS CONTRACT FOR INDIA GRAIN.—Washington.—Madame Vijaya Pandit, Indian ambassador to U. S., signs contract for purchase of 2 million tons on credit to help India fight off a famine. Earlier President Truman had signed bill authorizing a loan of \$100 million to pay for the grain. AFL backed grain for India. Prime Minister Nehru of India called the loan a "generous gesture."

## GRAIN SAILS

Philadelphia.—Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Indian ambassador to the United States, visited the first ship being loaded with grain for India just before it sailed.

The vessel was the John Chester Kendall, a Liberty ship, loaded with

9,900 of the 2 million tons to be provided under an American loan of \$100 million. AFL longshoremen formed a guard of honor for the ship.

In Washington, President Truman authorized Reconstruction Finance Corporation to lend \$20 million to the Department of Commerce to condition additional merchant vessels now in the "mothball fleet" to speed up the delivery of the grain to India.





**GREEN PLEDGES AFL HELP FOR U. S. RAISE**—Washington—President Lee George (left) of National Federation of Post Office Clerks thanks AFL President William Green for his pledge of full AFL support for a 17 per cent pay raise for postal and government workers. Mr. Green addressed 2-day national legislative conference held by 24 AFL government employes unions in behalf of pay raise.



**FLORIDA AND OREGON REPRESENTED**—Washington—James F. Slattery (left), Miami, former president Florida State Association of Labor Carriers, and C. M. Christensen (right), Portland, vice-president National Federation of Post Office Clerks, told President W. M. Thomas of AFL Railway Mail Association about their visits with their states' congressmen, urging 17 per cent increase for postal and government workers.



**AFGE TOLD CONGRESSMEN**—Washington—Vice-President John H. Walker (left), Oklahoma City, American Federation of Government Employees; AFGE Vice-President John Smith holding a card naming his home city, and AFGE National Representative Leslie Hadistien, Independence, Mo., told their home state congressmen government workers need a 17 per cent pay raise to catch up with the cost of living rise.

## SALARY BOARD

Washington, D. C.—The 5-man Salary Stabilization Board to pass upon pay increases for executives and salaried workers exempt from wage stabilization board orders was appointed by Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston.

Members are President Raymond B. Allen, Seattle, University of Washington; Ellsworth C. Alford, chairman, U. S. Chamber of Commerce committee on federal finance; Clinton S. Golden, former vice-president CIO United Steelworkers; Charles P. McCormick, Baltimore, president of the food firm; V. Henry Robichaud, 2nd, New York, corporation lawyer.

## CONVENTION SET

Bridgport, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor will hold its 66th convention at the Stratford Hotel, Sept. 1-14.

## Warns Business Men Against Phoning

Salisbury, N. C.—The North Carolina Federationist, published by the North Carolina Federation of Labor, carries a standing notice to merchants and business firms to beware of unauthorized advertising solicitations. It says:

"Authorized representatives calling on you for advertising in the North Carolina Federationist should have in their possession credentials signed by the president of the State Federation of Labor.

"We have no out-of-state representatives, nor do we solicit advertisements over the telephone."

## Truman Reaffirms Health Insurance Plan After AMA Calls It Dead

Washington—Hardly a week after the medical lobby finished pronouncing National Health Insurance officially dead, President Truman again called for its enactment because "skyrocketing medical costs are pushing millions of Americans into the medically indigent class."

He also urged Congress to complete action to strengthen and expand local public health units and to provide emergency federal aid to train more doctors, dentists and nurses.

The President strongly reaffirmed his support for the administration's National Health Program as he dedicated the \$40 million National Institute of Health Clinical Center at Bethesda, Md., June 22, "to the service of mankind . . . to save lives and to prevent human suffering."

Without once referring to the AMA lobby, he directly served notice of his intention to push all 3 proposals—National Health Insurance, local public health units, and emergency aid to the medical schools—despite the AMA's multi-million dollar opposition.

"Medical care is for the people and not just for the doctors. Our objective must be to make the best modern medical care available to all and more people. I intend to keep right on working for that as long as I am president of the United States and when I am through being President."

The previous week, June 11-15, saw 15,000 doctors assembled at Atlantic City, N. J., for the AMA's 100th annual convention, proclaim National Health Insurance "dead."

## \$7 Billion Handouts Given Big Business

Washington—Certificates of necessity for accelerated tax amortization of 171 new defense facilities and 107 new defense facilities were issued by the Defense Production Administration during the week of June 8-June 15.

Administrator Edwin T. Gibson announced that the amount eligible for rapid depreciation on those facilities is \$7 billion.

This listing brings the total number of certificates authorized to date to 1,000. The amount now eligible for amortization on those certificates is \$10,000,000.

The rapid tax write-off procedure was provided in the Internal Revenue act of 1950. Certificates of necessity permit companies to depreciate for tax purposes a designated percentage of the cost of a new facility over a five-year period.

Prior to passage of this Act, the authorized period of depreciation was 20 to 25 years, depending on the life usefulness of the facility.

Most of the handouts went to steel and electrical manufacturing industries, many of them without any investment.

## New Board Given Building Pay Cases

Washington—The Wage Stabilization Board ordered Wage and Hour offices to discontinue the handling of cases in the building and construction industry.

The WSB issued instructions to the 68 field offices of the Wage and Hour Division to discontinue their work for labor, currently acting as field offices for WSB, to refer all cases on hand and future requests for rulings, interpretations, or action to the Wage Stabilization Board, Comptroller of Industry Stabilization Commission, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

WSB's Washington staff also turned over to the Construction Commission approximately 200 cases on hand in the building and construction industry.

The Construction Commission held its first organizational meeting and expects to be able to proceed shortly to the cases that can be processed under the existing regulations. Four AFL members were appointed to the Construction Commission.

## NEW OFFICERS

Columbus, O.—New officers of the Ohio AFL Federation of Teachers are President Emerson Fishbaugh, Newark, Local 411, vice president Mrs. Sylvia Solomon, Toledo Local 250; George M. Morken, Newark, Local 411; J. A. Kayser, Zanesville Local 788; Financial Secretary Raymond Peck, Columbus Local 528.



## Truman Sees Highway Slaughter Inexcusable; Asks Safe Driving

By HARRY S. TRUMAN  
President United States  
(Excerpts from speech before Highway Safety Conference.)

Washington—Traffic accidents slow down production and weaken our whole economy. They are a sheer economic waste.

Every year, highway accidents cost us nearly \$3 billion. This is the cost of wrecked vehicles, hospital and medical expenses and time lost from employment. This is a terrible price to pay for carelessness and inactivity.

Many individual states and communities are making good safety records, and I congratulate them. But the accident rate in some states is less than half as high as it was in others. Among cities, the same wide range is found. What we need to do now is to find a way to bring the accident rate in every state and city down to the level of the best—and even lower, if possible.

This is a very urgent task. Because the sad fact is that, in spite of the progress we have made in reducing the rate of accidents, the total number of accidents is going up. This is because there has been a tremendous increase in highway travel. At the time of the 1946 conference, there were 30 million vehicles on the road. Today, the number is 50 million, an increase of 66 percent. Mileage of travel has skyrocketed in the same proportion.

Our safety efforts, helpful as they have been, have not kept pace with this increase in travel. Last year 35,000 persons were killed, and more than a million were injured in traffic accidents. Tens of thousands of those who were hurt were disabled for life. These 35,000 deaths in 1950 represent

Paris, France—Programs to help increase industrial productivity in free areas of the world cannot succeed without active support of the United States. U. S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip H. Frick said.

These programs cannot succeed, he said, unless the benefits of increased plant efficiency be "poured back" into the economy in the form of higher returns to the workers themselves. In an address before the American Club in Paris, the assistant labor secretary pointed out that the United States is striving to help free nations achieve "what is the state of economic, political, and social stability which will prevent their submergence in the mire of Communist domination." But to achieve a balanced development that will become the groundwork for future enduring progress in these countries, labor must get a full share of the benefits it contributes, he declared.

Added, "has done a magnificent job in rendering a helping hand to the free labor movement of other countries. It has done this, he said, 'voluntarily and on its own private initiative—Independent of the Government of the United States.'"

sented an 11 percent increase over 1949. Unless the upward trend is reversed—soon—this year set another tragic record.

We must prevent this from happening. This is a challenge to every state, and to every community, and to the federal government.

Each citizen has a personal responsibility to support the highway safety program, and what is more important, to be a good driver himself.

This will take self-discipline, but it can be done. It's a simple matter, good citizenship.

Perhaps we can understand the scope of our problem better if we recall that, that sometime in this year 1951, that some 100,000 traffic deaths since 1900 will pass the million mark.

Men, women and children will have been killed on our streets and highways since the turn of the century.

Nearly as many Americans have been killed in automobile accidents as have been killed in all the wars of our history, beginning 170 years ago with the War of Independence.

Those who have died in the service of their country rest in honored glory. They gave their lives for the purpose to which this nation is dedicated. But there is no noble purpose in death by traffic accidents. The slaughter going on every day on our roads and streets is unnecessary and inexcusable.

## VISIT PRESSEN'S HOME

Presmen's Home, Tenn.—A team of labor and employer representatives from the French graphic industries, the Coopers and Lybrand Co., and the administration agencies, scheduled a 2-day visit to the headquarters of the AFL Printing Pressmen's Union.



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AMALG COMPASS  
Founder and First President  
American Federation of Labor